

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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P.O. Box 1148  
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Time: 10:30 a.m.

#### **SUBDISTRICTS 2–4 COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS**

There will be commercial salmon openings directed on coho salmon beginning Thursday, August 8 in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2–4, the Golovin, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts. Commercial permit holders in all subdistricts are limited to 100 fathoms of net and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Commercial fishing opening times for each subdistrict are as follows:

Subdistricts 2 and 3, the Golovin and Elim Subdistricts, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 36 hours from 12:00 noon Thursday, August 8 to 12:00 midnight Friday evening, August 9. Elim permit holders are reminded that the entire Elim Subdistrict will be open to commercial salmon fishing during scheduled openings until further notice. Elim Subdistrict encompasses all waters from Carson Creek eastward to Isaac's Point.

Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 9 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 11.

The August 5<sup>th</sup> opening catch of 861 coho salmon in Golovin Subdistrict by 8 permit holders was 192% above the long-term average catch of 282 coho salmon for the first week of August. The August 5<sup>th</sup> catch was also the fifth best ever for a single period and the 2013 cumulative harvest of 1,700 cohos lags only behind the record 2010 season's catch for this date.

In the Elim Subdistrict, 9 permit holders caught 380 cohos in 36 hours, which was slightly below average for the first week of August. There have been nearly 1,200 coho salmon enumerated at the Kwiniuk River as of 8:00 a.m. August 8, which is 18% below the 2008–2012 average count of 1,448 cohos for August 8. However, projected escapement estimates of coho salmon based on this count range from 4,200–5,700 coho salmon for runs with early and normal migration timing, respectively. Current catch statistics and escapement information indicate that abundance of coho salmon continues to build in Subdistricts 2 and 3 and will be sufficient to achieve escapement needs and provide for subsistence uses. Escapements and catch statistics will be evaluated from this 36-hour opening to determine if additional fishing or periods of longer duration can be allowed without jeopardizing escapement or subsistence needs. Escapement of coho salmon to Subdistricts 2 and 3 will be evaluated using tower counts at the Kwiniuk River and the Kwiniuk River aerial survey goal range of 650–1,300 fish. Aerial surveys will also be flown of the Niukluk River tributary in the Fish River drainage.